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More Cuts Possible to Court Construction Program

December 13 meeting to select additional projects that may have to be delayed

SAN FRANCISCO—Faced with the potential for an additional \$600 million shortfall to the courthouse construction budget, the [Court Facilities Working Group](#) will meet Thursday, December 13, to draft recommendations designating which of 23 courthouse projects should be indefinitely delayed.

Additional projects may need to be delayed because of an unexpected added burden on the judicial branch construction funds: the first payment for the [Long Beach courthouse](#), scheduled to open in fall 2013. The judicial branch undertook the much-needed Long Beach project through legislation passed in 2007, authorizing a unique “[performance-based infrastructure](#)” project, with annual payments to start when the building is occupied by the court. The payments were to be appropriated from the state’s General Fund. However, with the state still facing a deficit, the burden of funding the construction, operation, and maintenance of this facility may shift to the account that funds [SB 1407 projects](#). This change means that the judicial branch cannot proceed with upwards of \$600 million in planned projects until the appropriation for Long Beach is resolved.

The draft recommendations will be posted for public comment following the meeting, and later presented to the Judicial Council for final action.

The meeting will be held from 9:00 A.M. to 12 P.M. in the Judicial Council Boardroom, located at 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3688. The meeting is open to the public, however, there will be no time allocated for public comment. An agenda will be posted to the [Court Facilities Working Group’s page](#) on the California Courts website.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.